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Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-06 CA-01 PPT-01 HA-05 L-03 H-01
SY-05 JUSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /047 W
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FOR ARA/CCA, CA AND CA/PT/L

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: CASC CGEN CPAS ASEC (PEARCE, RICHARD HARWOOD)
SUBJ:FOREIGN MINISTER'S HUMANITARIAN INTEREST IN AMCIT
RICHARD PEARCE

1. FOREIGN MINISTER MALMIERCA CALLED USINT CHIEF TO MINISTRY FEBRUARY 25 TO DISCUSS CASE OF RICHARD HARWOOD PEARCE AND PRESENT FOLLOWING SELF-EXPLANATORY AIDE MEMOIRE:
QUOTE AID MEMOIRE
ON MAY 21, 1967, AMERICAN CITIZEN RICHARD HARWOOD PEARCE, COMMANDER IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY, ARRIVED IN CUBA IN A CESSNA AIRCRAFT, WITH HIS FOUR-YEAR OLD SON NAMED RICHARD PEARCE.
MR. PEARCE ASKED THE CUBAN AUTHORITIES TO PERMIT HIM TO STAY IN THIS COUNTRY FOR PERSONNAL REASONS, WHICH WAS AUTHORIZED MERELY FOR HUMANITARIAN REASONS, AS IT WAS INFORMED IN DUE TIME TO THE EMBASSY OF SWITZERLAND IN HAVANA.
DURING HIS STAY IN CUBA, MR. PEARCE HAS PERFORMED ACTIVITIES WHICH HAVE ENABLED HIM TO DEVELOP AS A COMMON WORKER, WITHOUT ANY OTHER RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE CUBAN AUTHORITIES OTHER THAN THOSE WHICH ARE STRICTLY JOB RELATED.
AT. MR. PEARCE'S REQUEST, THE CUBAN AUTHORITIES MADE IT
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POSSIBLE FOR HIS SON'S MOTHER AND GRANDPARENTS TO VISIT HIM ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS.
LAST YEAR, THE BOY WANTED TO LEAVE TO LIVE WITH HIS RELATIVES IN TEXAS AND WAS AUTHORIZED TO DO SO BY HIS FATHER, WHO MADE ARRANGEMENTS IN THAT REGARD THROUGH THE EMBASSY OF SWITZERLAND IN HAVANA, OBTAINING HIS ENTRY IN THE UNITED STATES VIA JAMAICA.

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PRESENTLY, MR. PEARCE CONSIDERS THAT, HIS SON HAVING LEFT
THE COUNTRY, HIS STAY IN CUBA NO LONGER MAKES ANY SENSE AND,
CONSEQUENTLY, HE WANTS TO RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES.
THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS AND AT THE REQUEST
OF SEVERAL CONGRESSMEN OF THE UNITED STATES, HAS PROCEEDED
TO THE RELEASE OF AMERICAN CITIZENS WHO WERE SERVING PRISON
SENTENCES IN CUBA FOR VARIOUS OFFENSES AND HAS PERMITTED,
FURTHERMORE, THE DEPARTURE TO THE UNITED STATES OF PERSONS
WHO WISHED TO REUNITE WITH THEIR RELATIVES, ALL OF WHICH HAVE
ALWAYS BEEN DONE FOR HUMANITARIAN REASONS.
INFLUENCED BY THESE HUMANITARIAN CONSIDERATIONS, THE CUBAN
AUTHORITIES ARE WILLING TO AUTHORIZE MR. RICHARD H. PEARCE'S
DEPARTURE TO THE UNITED STATES, AS LONG AS THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE UNITED STATES AGREES NOT TO TAKE PUNITIVE ACTION
AGAINST HIM FOR THE INCIDENTS RELATING TO HIS ARRIVAL
IN CUBA. UNQUOTE

3. DURING CONVERSATION WITH USINT CHIEF, MALMIERCA WENT OVER
CASE IN SOME DETAIL, ALLEGING SINCERE PERSONAL HUMANITARIAN
CONCERNS WHICH HE SAID WERE SHARED BY FIDEL CASTRO.

4. ACTION: POST HAS ASKED THAT PEARCE COME IN TO DISCUSS
PERSONALLY HIS POSSIBLE RETURN TO US SO THAT WE CAN RESPOND TO
MINISTER'S INTEREST AND TO PEARCE EXPEDITIOUSLY. REQUEST DEPT/JUSTICE
DETERMINE WHETHER ANY STATE FOR FEDERAL CHARGES OUTSTANDING
AGAINST PEARCE, AND IF SO, THEIR PRECISE NATURE. (FYI
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PT/L (KELLER) MAY RECALL DETAILS OF SON'S RETURN TO US LAST
YEAR WHICH COULD SHED LIGHT ON FATHER'S CASE.) POST WOULD
APPRECIATE A FULL REPORT ON PEARCE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
LANE

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